

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/788,988

Examiner

Karen B. Addison

Applicant(s)

TUSS, JOEL R.

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/15/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16, 18-25 and 45-52.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached.
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of _____.
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows: Cancel claims 26-29

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-16,18,19-25,45-52 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art fails to show, an acoustical system having a substrate position in the interior of the vehicle; an a plurality of acoustical transducers carried by the substrate in the interior of the vehicle and positioned to form an array having at least two dimensions, the acoustical transducers being configured to sense sound and to transmit input signals to the substrate, the substrate being configured to receive the input signals and to transmit at least one output signal to the output device. Prior art also fails to show, at least one second substrate having a plurality of conductive paths, the second substrate being operatively couple to the output device or another output device; and at least one second acoustical transducer carried by the at least one second substrate, the at least one second acoustical transducer being configured to sense sound and to transmit a second input signal to the at least one second substrate, the at least one second substrate being configured to transmit a second output signal to the output device or the

other output device, and the first and second substrates being coupled together to position the first and second acoustical transducers in an array having at least two dimensions and at least one second acoustical transducer carried by the at least one second substrate, the at least one second acoustical transducer being configured to sense sound and to transmit a second input signal to the at least one second substrate, the at least one second substrate being configured to transmit a second output signal to the output device or the other output device, and the first and second substrates being coupled together to position the first and second acoustical transducers in a spherical array. Prior art also fails to show, at least one second acoustical transducer carried by the at least one second substrate, the at least one second acoustical transducer being configured to sense sound and to transmit a second input signal to the at least one second substrate, the at least one second substrate being configured to transmit a second output signal to the output device or the other output device, and the first and second substrates being coupled together to position the first and second acoustical transducers in a two dimensional rectilinear array. Prior art also fails to show, a plurality of acoustical transducers, including microphones, carried by the substrate and positioned to form an array having at least two dimensions, the acoustical transducers being configured to sense sound and to transmit input signals to the substrate, the substrate being configured to receive the input signals and to transmit at least one output signal to the output device. Prior art also fails to show, a plurality of acoustical transducers carried by the substrate and positioned to form an array having at least two dimensions, the acoustical transducers being configured to sense sound and to transmit

input signals to the substrate, the substrate being configured to receive the input signals and to transmit at least one output signal to the output device. Prior art also fails to show, a plurality of acoustical transducers carried by the substrate and positioned to form an array having at least two dimensions, the acoustical transducers being configured to sense sound and to transmit input signals to the substrate wherein at least one acoustical transducer is configured to sense sound and at least one acoustical transducer is configured to transmit sound, the substrate being configured to receive the input signals and to transmit at least one output signal to the output device. Prior art also fails to show, a plurality of acoustical transducers carried by the substrate and positioned to form an array having at least two dimensions, the acoustical transducers being configured to sense sound and to transmit input signals to the substrate, wherein at least one of the acoustical transducers is further configured to transmit sound, the substrate being configured to receive the input signals and to transmit at least one output signal to the output device. Prior art also fails to show, a plurality of acoustical transducers carried by the substrate and positioned to form an array having at least two dimensions, the acoustical transducers being configured to sense sound and to transmit input signals to the substrate, the substrate being configured to receive the input signals and to transmit at least one output signal to the output device, wherein the substrate includes a first substrate, and wherein the system further comprises at least one second substrate, with the first substrate being operatively coupled to the output device via the at least one second substrate. Prior art also fails to show, a plurality of acoustical transducers carried by the substrate and positioned to form an array having at least two

dimensions, the acoustical transducers being configured to sense sound and to transmit input signals to the substrate, the substrate being configured to receive the input signals and to transmit at least one output signal to the output device, wherein the substrate further includes a processing device coupled to at least one of the conductive paths and at least one of the acoustical transducers to digitized an input signal to form at least one acoustical transducer. Prior art also fails to show, a plurality of acoustical transducers carried by the substrate and positioned to form an array having at least two dimensions, the acoustical transducers being configured to sense sound and to transmit input signals to the substrate, the substrate being configured to receive the input signals and to transmit at least one output signal to the output device. Prior art also fails to show, an array having at least two dimensions, the acoustical transducers being configured to sense sound and to transmit input signals to the substrate, the substrate being configured to receive the input signals and to transmit at least one output signal to the output device, wherein the plurality of conductive paths includes at least one first conductive path and at least one second conductive path, the at least one first conductive path being configured to carry at least one of the input and output signals, and the at least one second conductive path being coupled to ground and located proximate to the at least one first conductive path to shield the first conductive path.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen B. Addison whose telephone number is 571-272-2017. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on 571-272-2044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KBA
11/8/07


DARREN SCHUBERG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800